**Laudato Si’ Action Platform Reflection Peter Dowling cfc**

After the experience of a year of working with the Laudato Si’ Action Goals, I would say that I both aimed a little high in the number of goals I had hoped to achieve, and also that other opportunities emerged as well along the way, and which became important. Thus, for example, the appointment in my Province of an Environmental Sustainability Manager has meant considerable education for both the Christian Brothers of the Province and those who work with us. This has resulted in renewed looking at our energy audits across the Province, seeking more environmentally sustainable energy companies, and looking at the sustainability goals of Laudato Si’ in a broader context than a purely individual one.

Secondly, groups of Brothers have gathered regularly by Zoom at an international level to share developments and to offer support to one another.

Meeting a call for new members for the local St Vincent de Paul Society has put me in closer touch with people who are finding the present time difficult in their own living, and this has widened my understanding of needs in general in society.

Finally, the recent Referendum in Australia in which the question put was whether Aboriginal People should have a ‘Voice’ to Parliament inserted into the Constitution was unfortunately defeated, leaving many indigenous people feeling that their legitimate needs, so clearly documented, will not be addressed adequately. Since our indigenous brothers and sisters have much to teach society in sustainable forms of living with Mother Earth, ongoing support for them seems very important at this time.

My Laudato Si’ Action Goals for 2023-2024 are modified somewhat in the light of the above reflection.

Peter Dowling cfc